Name _____ Date _____

**"A Journey Through Texas"** ***from*** **The Journey of Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca**
by Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca
**"Boulders Taller Than the Great Tower of Seville"** by García López de Cárdenas

# Literary Analysis: Exploration Narratives

"A Journey Through Texas" and "Boulders Taller Than the Great Tower of Seville" are both **exploration narratives**—explorers' firsthand accounts of their experiences. Such narratives generally focus on the difficulties that the explorers faced and the specific discoveries they made. Though generally factual and meant to be informative, exploration narratives nevertheless express viewpoints and reactions that are sometimes distinctly personal. In addition to providing factual information, the writers may aim to impress others or perhaps to inspire them to follow in their footsteps.

**DIRECTIONS:** *Read the following passage from "A Journey Through Texas." Then, on the lines that follow, identify the elements of exploration narratives that you find in the passage.*

> On that same day many fell sick, and on the next day eight of them died! All over the country, where it was known, they became so afraid that it seemed as if the mere sight of us would kill them. They besought us not to be angry nor to procure the death of any more of their number, for they were convinced that we killed them by merely thinking of it. In truth, we were very much concerned about it, for, seeing the great mortality, we dreaded that all of them might die or forsake us in their terror, while those further on, upon learning of it, would get out of our way hereafter. We prayed to God our Lord to assist us, and the sick began to get well. Then we saw something that astonished us very much, and it was that, while the parents, brothers and wives of the dead had shown deep grief at their illness, from the moment they died the survivors made no demonstration whatsoever, and showed not the slightest feeling; nor did they dare to go near the bodies until we ordered their burial. . . .


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